

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 remain in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended and claims 22-32 added.

The claimed invention describes a structure that avoids dogboning, a problem not addressed in any of the references. It does this by making the inner balloon shorter than the stent and the outer balloon longer than the stent.

The purpose of the inner balloon in Di Caprio et al. is to hold the stent in place during delivery; it does not inflate to expand the stent and, in fact, this balloon, called "securment means", "is sized and constructed to be fluid expandable to no more then the delivery size." As amended, the claims of the present application make clear that the inner balloon expands the stent to a point of implanting the stent.

Furthermore, the basic teaching of this reference is that both the inner and outer balloons should have a length about that of the stent. The concept of making the outer balloon longer and the inner balloon shorter than the stent is just not found here, nor should it be expected since Di Caprio et al. are not trying to solve the dogboning problem.

These and other features now in claim 1 and 20 cause them to clearly distinguish from Di Caprio et al. As is now clear in the claims, the inner balloon has a function of expanding the stent and partially implanting it. The inner balloon in the reference is designed to not do this but only expand to the delivery diameters. Thus, the prior does not possess characteristics necessary to carry out the purpose of the claimed invention.

Miller teaches an arrangement of inner and outer balloons in which the inner balloon expands to a first diameter after which, with further inflation it bursts. Then the outer balloon expands to a larger diameter. It does not include a stent and the two balloons are of about the same length. Thus, the claims also distinguish over Miller. Furthermore, one balloon, typically the inner balloon, is non-compliant and the other, typically the outer balloon, is a high

compliance balloon. (See Col. 3, l. 19-30 (inner balloon) and Col. 3, l. 46-56 (outer balloon) of Miller.) Thus, dependent claims 8, 10, 28 and 30, further distinguish from this reference.

As far as combining the references, it should be apparent from what is said above that the references provide no motivation for combination. The purposes of the inner balloons in the two patents is so different that there would be no reason to combine them and in fact doing so would be contrary to their teaching. Furthermore, even with the combination, elements of the claims would be missing.

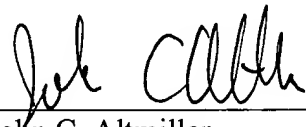
In view of the above, Applicants believe that all claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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